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AN HISTORICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENTATION OF --ETC(U)  
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THE CLASS OF 1957, U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT,  
AS IT APPROACHES THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS GRADUATION.

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COLONEL WILLIAM L. GOLDEN  
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THE CLASS OF 1957, U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT,  
AS IT APPROACHES THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS GRADUATION

A Report of Original Survey Research

by

WILLIAM L. GOLDEN  
Colonel, Infantry  
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U.S. Army War College  
Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013

31 May 1977



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△ This report describes the methodology and results of original survey research conducted in 1967 and 1977 to develop data concerning the Class of 1957, USMA, and also reports reactions to statements designed to elicit attitudes and opinions concerning a number of national and military issues. The report initially describes the class in terms of its social origins, early associations and indicators of performance while cadets. This is followed by a history of Army and Air Force military service of the group including specialty fields, Vietnam service, command assignments, reasons for remaining on active duty and post-West Point graduate education. A section on promotion addresses the correlation of promotions with rank held as a cadet, nonselections, aspirations for general officership and the effect of seniors and certain assignments upon promotion. Next is presented the past and projected evolution of the exodus of members from military to civil life, reasons for leaving, current civil life employment and levels of income. Following that is a summary of marital status, family size and other family characteristics. A final section presents a compilation of attitudes and opinions of the class concerning certain selected subjects. *The author presents*

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## INTRODUCTION

The date of 4 June, 1977, will mark the twentieth anniversary of the graduation of the 546 members of the United States Military Academy Class of 1957 and the point when two class members, one Army and one U.S. Air Force, will have been promoted to the grade of Brigadier General, a number of members will have attained, through one or more early promotions during their careers, the rank of Colonel, and the majority remaining on active duty will be under consideration for routine promotion to Colonel. That date also marks the point when all members remaining on active military duty will become eligible for federally funded retirement.

The implications of reaching that date in terms of effect upon the Army and Air Force officer corps', class members' personal decision opportunities, possible mid-life crisis situations and a number of other significant issues applicable to active duty members and those in civil life alike, provide sufficient incentive to capitalize upon an unique opportunity to continue the study of the members of this class which was begun through a questionnaire survey in 1967. Such a survey was done beginning in the first quarter of 1977 and the result of that survey is the subject of this report.

The purposes of this report are: to describe original survey research efforts conducted by the author in 1967 and in 1977; to develop an historical and sociological profile of the class and its Army, Air Force and civil life components; to assess discernable factors of military and civilian career success; to examine attitudes, perceptions and opinions concerning, among others, career progression, service retention and selected service and national issues; to make survey results available to appropriate military and academic research communities as well as to the respondents who participated in the research efforts.

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Conducted in 1967.

Research in 1967 was conducted under the guidance of Professor Morris Janowitz, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. Funding was provided by the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society.

Data were compiled from the answers to structured questionnaires which had been mailed to 535 living members of the class in January, 1967 and which were returned by 513 members over the following six month period. Table 1 describes reply rates according to the military service status of the individuals at the time questionnaires were completed. For members who failed to respond and for eleven members who were by then deceased the author completed questionnaires

using, to the extent possible, the limited information available in official and unofficial U.S. Military Academy (USMA) publications and official government publications. Further efforts in conjunction with the 1977 survey described below resulted in completed 1967 questionnaires from seven additional class members or next-of-kin (NOK) of then-deceased members. There are, then, some 1967-gathered data on 100% of the class but complete data on only 95.2%.

Data were initially prepared for analysis with the assistance of the program and facilities available at the University of Chicago.

#### Research Conducted in 1977.

Research in 1977 was approved at the appropriate coordination office at Department of Army and conducted under the auspices of the Department of Command and Management, U.S. Army War College. A draft of the questionnaire and an opportunity to provide input or comment was provided to the staff, faculty and resident class of the War College, the Army Research Institute, the Department of Army ODCSPER divisions of Human Resources Development and of Leadership and Motivation, the USMA Office of Institutional Research and the USAF Office of Personnel Research. Only the latter provided input.

Data were again gathered by mailing structured questionnaires in March, 1977 to 502 of 515 living class members and to the next-of-kin of 24 of 29 deceased. Thirteen members and five next-of-kin remain unlocated. Table 2 illustrates results tabulated according to the military/civilian status in which each respondent intended to be or which he would be anticipating as of the summer of 1977.

Data were assembled and compiled with the assistance of programs and facilities available at the U.S. Army War College computer center.

#### Numerical Variations in Tables.

Variations in numerical entries and totals will be noted in various tables throughout this report. Some variations are due to incomplete data for non-responding individuals in each or both surveys as well as to the failure of some respondents to answer all questions. In other cases, facts gained in 1967 were combined with those learned in 1977 thereby providing totals numerically greater than could be gleaned from either survey independently. Tables identified as reflecting data from members as opposed to from respondents include information gathered from sources other than survey results.

#### Organization of Chart and Tables.

For ease of text readability and cross-referencing chart and tables, this report is organized with tables located immediately following each major section of text.



TABLE 1  
1967 QUESTIONNAIRE REPLY RATES  
Class of 1957, USMA

	Active Army	Active Air Force	Ex- Army	Ex- USAF	No U.S. Service	Total
Total	301	105	101	22	4	535
No reply	10	-	9	2	1	22
Replied	291	105	92	24	3	513
% Replied	96.7	100.0	91.1	91.7	75.0	95.9

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TABLE 2  
1977 QUESTIONNAIRE REPLY DATA  
Class of 1957, USMA

REPLIED: 440						No U.S. Service	Next- of-kin
Army			USAF				
Resigned	Retired	Active	Resigned	Retired	Active		
85	49	190	18	16	64	3	15

NO REPLY: 88

Living	Next-of-kin
79	9

REMAIN UNLOCATED: 18

Living, Civil life	Living, Military	Next-of-kin
12	1	5

## SOCIAL ORIGINS AND EARLY ASSOCIATIONS

Sociologists who study the military usually focus initially on the social origins and early associations of professional military people in the belief that one might be able to find some significant relationship between career performance, retention on active duty or some other pertinent factor. The following is presented in order to identify these types of data concerning the Class of 1957.

### Social Origins.

For lack of "home" area information on his subjects the social scientist often puts unjustified emphasis on place of birth as a relevant factor in his investigation. One may posit that place of birth, often a chance location, is less relevant to individual development and mindset than the area where raised during the formative teenage years. Chart A, using information gleaned from the 1967 survey, portrays the distribution of respondents according to birth regions and home areas ("that part of the U.S. where you were brought up and now reflect upon as your home area") for 543 members of the class. Noteworthy are the differences in born/raised figures for each region as well as a factor not shown on the chart but revealed by cross-tabulation; a total of 25.4% of 540 members were raised in an area other than that of birth.

Table 4 portrays respondent's generation of nativity in the United States and lends credence, in a limited way, to the proposition of a number of sociologists that the U.S. officer corps is principally native born. In the case of this class there was found to be almost 90% who were second generation or more.

Given the full realization that the United States has from its inception been the "melting pot" of the races and nationalities and that respondents might have difficulty in isolating accurate answers, each was asked to identify to which part of the world his parents' family traced back its family ties. Data displayed in Table 5 shows the significant association with western Europe with a very substantial representation from the region of the British Isles.

Tables 6 through 8 display additional measures of home life concerning with whom members grew up, the primary occupation of and formal education level attained by the family breadwinner. Nothing remarkable is to be found in Table 6 which reports that approximately 11% of class members were raised by only one parent or by relatives and that two members were raised outside their own family contexts. Table 7 presents data which suggest that the class was not unlike its contemporaries, according to Janowitz' discussion of officer corps social strata

(The Professional Soldier, 1960, p.91) in terms of occupation and level of income of family breadwinners. Neither are their unusual findings in the distribution of respondents according to the education level of the breadwinner in the family in which respondents were raised; Table 8.

#### Early Associations.

Compilation of 1967 data reveals that 68% of the 513 respondents reported having been members of the Boy Scouts with 41 respondents having attained the rank of Eagle Scout and a total of 136 respondents having attained one of the three top ranks in the program.

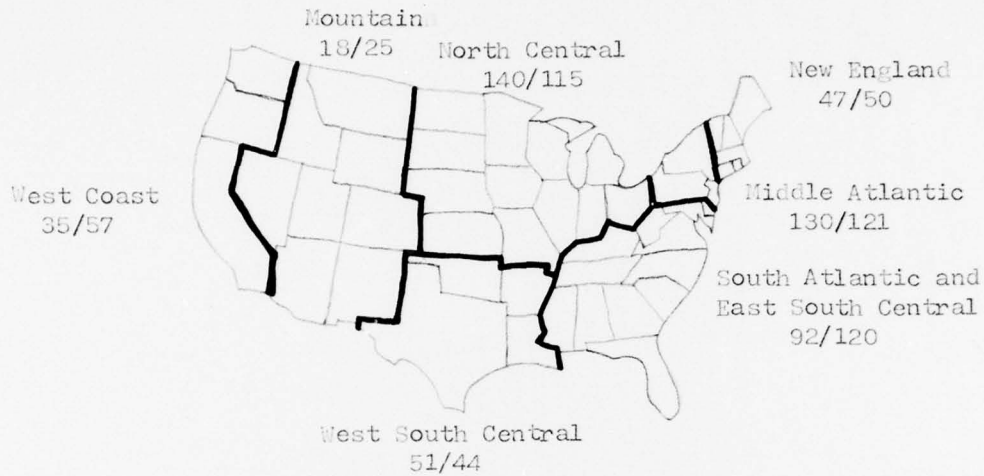
Fifty-four respondents (10.5%) reported having attended a military high school. One hundred sixty four (30.4%) indicated that they had attended some type special preparatory school after high school in order to prepare for examinations for academy entrance. Sixty five had attended the Army operated USMA Preparatory School while on active military duty and ninety one had attended a civilian owned preparatory school. Slightly less than half (242 or 47.1%) of respondents reported having attended college for from one to six semesters before Academy entrance and an additional three reported having attended for eight semesters or more.

Noted above was the fact that 120 respondents indicated that the occupation of their family breadwinners had been military service. Further inquiry into early associations with the military revealed that 127 (24.4%) respondents were sons of USMA graduates or other-source professional military officers, five (.9%) were sons of professional enlisted rank military members and 52 (10.1%) had relatives who were USMA graduates or professional officers. Additionally, 243 (47.3%) respondents indicated having performed some form of military service prior to academy entrance as shown in Table 9.

# CHART A

REGIONS WHERE BORN AND WHERE RAISED  
546 Members, Class of 1957, USMA

Born/Raised



Outside the U.S. due to parent's government service - 15/3  
Outside the U.S. (includes 4 non-U.S. citizens) - 15/8

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TABLE 3

TYPE COMMUNITY IN WHICH RAISED  
523 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	Farm	Rural, Non-Farm	Total <u>Rural</u>	Urban Industrial	Urban Commercial	Total <u>Urban</u>	Military Community
N	32	126	158	74	218	292	73
%	6.12	24.09	30.21	14.15	41.68	55.83	13.96

TABLE 4

GENERATION OF U.S. NATIVITY  
513 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	Foreign Born	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth or More
N	8 <sup>a</sup>	55	126	75	42	207
%	1.6	10.7	24.6	14.6	8.2	40.3

a) Includes 3 citizens of foreign countries who were never commissioned in the U.S. military and 1 other who was commissioned and later gained U.S. citizenship

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TABLE 5

PLACE TO WHICH PARENTS' FAMILY TIES ARE TRACED  
513 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

Place	N	%	Place	N	%
Ireland	72	14.0	South Europe (Spain, Port., Italy, Greece)	27	5.3
Scotland	52	10.1	North Africa	2	.4
England	162	31.6	Far East and Southeast Asia	1	.2
Scandinavia	33	6.4	Mexico, Central and South America	2	.4
West Europe (Belux, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland)	133	25.9	American Indian	2	.4
East Europe (Poland, Czech., Hungary and Yugoslavia east to include Russia)	27	5.26	Total	513	100.0

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TABLE 6

PARENTAL ASSOCIATIONS  
514 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

With whom respondent lived while growing up	Both parents, step-parent	Father only	Mother only	Relatives	Other
N	435	4	45	10	2
%	88.1	.8	8.8	1.9	.4



TABLE 7

FAMILY BREADWINNERS' PRIMARY OCCUPATIONS  
513 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

Type Occupation	N	%
Manager, official or proprietor, including farm	125	24.4
Military	120	23.4
Professional, technical or kindred	114	22.2
Craftsman, foreman or kindred	48	9.4
Clerical or sales worker	47	9.2
Laborer	28	5.5
Semi-skilled	21	4.1
Household or service worker	8	1.6
Pension or compensation income	2	.4
	513	100.0
*****	*****	*****

TABLE 8

FAMILY BREADWINNERS' LEVELS OF FORMAL EDUCATION  
512 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	PhD or Equivalent	Masters Degree	College Graduate	Some College	Hi-School Graduate	Some Hi-School	Below Hi-School
N	13	52	136	86	94	59	72
%	2.5	10.2	26.6	16.8	18.4	11.5	14.1
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

TABLE 9

MILITARY SERVICE PRIOR TO USMA ENTRANCE  
514 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	Active Army	Active Navy	Active USAF	Active USMC	Active Coast Guard	Nat'l Guard or Reserve	Total with Service
N	39	3	31	4	1	165	243
%	7.6	.6	6.0	.8	.2	32.1	47.3

#### INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE WHILE CADETS

Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy and the sociologists who study them generally agree on three indicators which taken independently or in combination are the most frequently cited measurements of the performance of a cadet during his days at West Point; Cadet rank attained, Graduation Order of Merit(GOM) list standing and level of award for intercollegiate athletic endeavors. While each of the three is often used as an independent measurement all were, in fact, interrelated. Tables 10 through 13 describe the distribution of these measurements among class members and provide some indication of their interrelationships.

Cadet rank attained was dependent upon demonstrated abilities, the outcome of peer and superior ratings over a three year period, above average participation on athletic teams and in cadet activity organizations, notable accomplishment of military duties and performance in academics. It should be noted, however, that this reward system incorporated provisions whereby three years of superlative performance sufficient to earn the performer high rank was obviated by only one serious breach of the disciplinary system. Furthermore, some class members fell victim of the system after having been appointed to high rank and therefore lost it. These changes of cadet rank made after initial appointment are not included here. Table 10 presents the distribution of cadet rank as announced in Special Orders of 27 August, 1956 which designated the rank and position to be held by each member of the First (senior) Class as well as categorizing the various ranks in levels of seniority. The number of leadership positions appointed was a function of the organization of the Corps of Cadets and therefore only the number of cadets appointed as Sergeants varied from graduation class to class according to class size.

Table 11 presents the relationship between cadets' ranks and their positions on the Graduation Order of Merit (GOM) list announced nine months later in connection with graduation preparation. GOM is frequently thought to reflect only academic ranking while it actually incorporates assessments from all fields of cadet endeavor, some of which also contribute to rank attainment. Inspection of this table shows that proportionally more senior ranking cadets were in the upper levels of the GOM and the opposite was true for those in the lower cadet ranks. Readily discernable is that the lowest 25% of the GOM received only 12.8% of the captain and lieutenant positions while the top 25% of the GOM list occupied 36.5% of those positions. Even more apparent is that the lowest 5% of the GOM list cadets ranked as junior sergeants.

Tables 12 and 13 show distribution of the three levels of intercollegiate



athletic achievement awards among class members according to the recipient's GOM standing and according to the level of cadet rank to which he was appointed. One finds that various levels of sport awards were distributed uniformly throughout the GOM list with the minor exception that the number of major sport varsity awards were earned in a disproportionally high percentage (22.7%) by the top 15% of the members of the GOM list. Data in Table 13 show that the higher the cadet rank the greater the percentage within that rank to receive high level sport awards, with the gamut running from 31% of captains to 8.4% of sergeants receiving major sport awards. Conversely, the percentages of those who were non-recipients varied from 26.2% to 61.7% for captains and sergeants, respectively. Otherwise stated, cadet captains, who made up only 7.7% of the class, received 18.8% of the major varsity awards but made up only 3.7% of those receiving no sport recognition. Cadet sergeants who were 60.7% of the class received 40.6% of the awards and made up 68.9% of those with no award. (Note: Respondents were denoted only by the highest sport award received and therefore differences in findings based upon receipt of multiple or other category awards are possible.)

TABLE 10  
DISTRIBUTION OF CADET RANK  
546 Members, Class of 1957, USMA

<u>Rank</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Cumulative %</u>
Captain, Commander or staff	42	7.7	7.7
Lieutenant, company executive officer or battalion staff	42	7.7	15.4
Lieutenant, platoon leader	72	13.2	28.6
Master Sergeant, First Sergeant or Sergeant First Class	58	10.6	39.2
Sergeant	332	60.8	100.0
	<u>546</u>	<u>100.0</u>	

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TABLE 11  
DISTRIBUTION OF EACH CADET RANK AMONG INCREMENTS OF  
THE GRADUATION ORDER OF MERIT LIST  
546 Members, Class of 1957, USMA

		Captain	Senior Lieutenant	Junior Lieutenant	Senior Sergeant	Junior Sergeant	(N)
Graduation Order of Merit Standing	Upper 5%	14.3%	14.3%	4.2%	5.2%	2.7%	(27)
	Next 10%	16.7	14.3	13.9	15.5	6.9	(55)
	Next 10%	11.9	16.7	9.7	8.6	9.3	(55)
	Next 15%	14.3	16.7	19.4	17.2	13.3	(81)
	Middle 20%	16.7	16.7	30.6	20.7	18.7	(110)
	Next 15%	16.7	4.8	9.7	13.8	17.2	(81)
	Next 10%	2.4	9.5	9.7	6.9	11.7	(55)
	Next 10%	7.1	7.1	2.8	12.1	12.0	(55)
	Lower 5%	-	-	-	-	8.1	(27)
	(N)	(42)	(42)	(72)	(58)	(332)	(546)

% based upon column total

TABLE 12

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH LEVEL OF INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
AMONG INCREMENTS OF THE GRADUATION ORDER OF MERIT LIST

Graduation Order of Merit Standing		Percent of 69 awardees of letters for major sports	Percent of 50 awardees of letters for minor sports	Percent of 130 awardees of varsity participants' monograms	Percent of 296 cadets not receiving varsity sport awards
	Upper 5%	8.7%	4.0%	4.6%	4.4%
	Next 10%	13.0	6.0	13.1	8.8
	Next 10%	7.2	12.0	11.5	9.8
	Next 15%	7.2	16.0	14.4	16.6
	Middle 20%	17.4	22.0	20.0	20.6
	Next 15%	11.6	12.0	13.8	16.2
	Next 10%	13.0	14.0	10.8	8.4
	Next 10%	17.4	8.0	5.4	10.8
	Lower 5%	4.3	6.0	6.2	4.4
	(N)	(69)	(50)	(130)	(296) (545)
	% based on column total				

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TABLE 13

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH CADET RANK  
AMONG THE LEVELS OF SPORT AWARDS RECEIVED

Level of Sport Award		Captain	Senior Lieutenant	Junior Lieutenant	Senior Sergeant	Junior Sergeant
	Letter for major sport	31.0%	11.9%	18.3%	17.2%	8.4%
	Letter for minor sport	4.8	16.7	11.3	10.3	8.4
	Participant's Monogram	38.1	28.6	29.6	17.2	21.4
	None	26.2	42.9	40.8	55.2	61.7
	(N)	(42)	(42)	(71)	(58)	(332) (545)
	% based upon column total					

## MILITARY SERVICE

The branch of the armed service in which each cadet would serve as an officer upon graduation from West Point was chosen by him from a predetermined number of allocations to each branch with the first ranking cadet on the Graduation Order of Merit having first choice. Table 14 shows how members of the class, according to their individual class standings, chose or were ranked in their respective branches of service. Well known to all members of the class, and in continuation of a long standing historical reality, is that the Army Corps of Engineers was the first to have its quota exhausted. Also evident from a cursory inspection of Table 14 is that Armor branch was viewed as attractive and was filled early, Infantry branch had not yet succumbed to the Vietnam era anti-infantry syndrome, and that Artillery and Signal Corps fought to the end for the last man in the class who ultimately went to the Signal Corps. The table also demonstrates that the distribution of class members in the Air Force was uniformly representative of the GOM.

Immediate post-graduation service found each newly commissioned officer in attendance at the school of his branch for general orientation to active service and specialized training in the requirements and techniques of his branch. For Army members this was followed by obligatory attendance at one or more special qualification courses of his choice, e.g., Parachute, Ranger or Aviation School. Air Force members, in the main, attended flight or navigators school. The special qualifications attained in this training, as reported in the 1967 survey, are reported in Table 15.

Class members who were serving or had served as officers in the Air Force reported in 1967 that the career fields shown in Table 16 were those in which they had spent the most time or which they then considered to be their main Air Force orientations. The same query in 1977, using career designations officially recognized by the USAF Personnel Center, provided the data found in Table 17 which highlights the drift of Air Force members away from flying as a primary orientation.

A similar but less dramatic drift away from combat type career fields can be found among results of answers from responding members who had served or were serving in the Army. Table 18 shows that most transfers away from original career fields had taken place by the time of the 1967 survey and Table 19 indicates the reasons that 85 members had chosen to transfer branches.

The fact of the long involvement of the nation in the conflict in Vietnam made it almost mandatory to inquire into the degree of involvement, in terms of



time devoted to the conflict. Each respondent was asked to indicate the number of one year length (or equivalent) tours of duty ( a normal length tour of duty as prescribed by Department of Defense) he had served directly participating in the Vietnam war. The significance of the resulting Table 20 is found in the fact that only five Army careerists (retired or currently active) failed to see duty in the Vietnam conflict and that nearly half (47.3%) of those Army careerists served two or more tours of one year while only 20% of Air Force careerists served more than one such Vietnam one year tour. Also of note is that 17 (21.3%) of 80 Air Force careerists reported having never served a one year tour participating in the Vietnam war.

The opportunity to be a commander of a military organization has historically been viewed as a stepping stone to higher rank and expanded authority and has therefore been actively sought. Army members frequently hear assertions emanating from higher ranks that the experience of being that commander at the Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel level should be "fun" and enjoyed and, therefore, not be perceived as a trying time. To investigate the command experience of both Army and Air Force commanders at those levels, class members were asked to report the type of command held and the degree of enjoyment experienced. The results are presented in Table 21 and show that while a preponderance who had commanded found the job enjoyable (82.1% including 24.6% who indicated: in spite of continual difficult relationships), the remaining 17.9% claimed finding no enjoyment at all. The reasons for the various degrees of enjoyment experienced by the 179 members who had commanded were not explored.

At the time the 1977 questionnaire was mailed there remained less than four months until all serving class members would become eligible for paid retirement. It was appropriate, then, to attempt to determine motivations of those who had decided to remain in active service and Table 22 presents the number of responses selected from among the predetermined reasons offered in the questionnaire. The most interesting aspect of the response is that one quarter of the respondents who plan to remain on active duty indicated that the most nearly appropriate reason for remaining was that they had not identified any other suitable civilian occupation rather than identifying career or promotion related reasons.

TABLE 14  
ARMED SERVICE BRANCH AT GRADUATION  
AS RELATED TO GRADUATION ORDER OF MERIT STANDING  
546 Members, Class of 1957, USMA

Graduation Order of Merit Standing			Armor	Artillery	Corps of Engineers	Infantry	Signal Corps	Air Force	No U.S. Service
Upper	27	2	2	2	7	5	2	9	
Next	55	8	7	7	18	3	3	16	
Next	55	9	4	4	22	7	4	9	
Next	81	19	9	9	5	20	8	20	
Middle	110	2	16			55	5	30	2
Next	81		25			26	8	22	
Next	55		14			23	3	15	
Next	55		35			6	3	10	1
Lower	27		19				3	4	1
Total		40	131	52	145	39	135	4	546

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TABLE 15  
SPECIAL MILITARY QUALIFICATIONS ATTAINED  
517 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Parachutist, Ranger and Aviator	12	2.3
Parachutist and Ranger	188	36.4
Parachutist and Aviator	24	4.6
Parachutist	133	25.7
Ranger	3	.6
Aviator	94	18.2
Navigator	13	2.5
None	50	9.7
	<u>517</u>	<u>100.0</u>

PRIMARY AIR FORCE CAREER FIELDS  
Responding Members, Class of 1957, USMA,  
Who Had Served or Were Serving in the Air Force

TABLE 16  
1967 Survey

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Flying Operations	88	68.8
Missile Operations	3	2.3
Other Operations	1	.8
Scientific and Development Engineering	17	13.3
Electronics and Maintenance Engineering	8	6.3
Material	2	1.6
Intelligence and Security	4	3.1
Other	5	3.9
Total	<u>128</u>	<u>100.0</u>

TABLE 17

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Operations (Pilot)	41	38.3
Operations (Navigator)	4	3.7
Operations (Missile, Space, Weapons Director, etc.)	2	1.9
Scientific and Development Engineering	15	14.0
System Program Management	15	14.0
Communications-Electronics	3	2.8
Logistics	4	3.7
Civil Engineering	3	2.8
Personnel Resources Management	2	1.9
Intelligence	4	3.7
Medical/Legal	2	1.9
Information	1	.9
International Politico-Military Affairs	3	2.8
Other	8	7.5
Total	<u>107</u>	<u>100.0</u>



TABLE 18  
PRIMARY ARMY CAREER FIELDS  
Members, Class of 1957, USMA,  
Who Had Served or Were Serving in the Army

	Commissioned Branch, 1957		Last Branch Served as of 1967	Last Branch Served, 1977 Respondents	Last Branch Served, 1977 Careerists Only	
	N	%	%	%	N	%
Armor	40	9.8	8.4	8.9	19	8.0
Field Artillery <sup>a</sup>	131	32.1	23.6	14.7	38	16.0
Air Defense Artillery <sup>a</sup>				9.2	16	6.7
Corps of Engineers	52	12.8	13.0	12.6	31	13.0
Infantry	145	35.6	28.3	27.9	70	29.4
Signal Corps	39	9.6	9.3	8.6	19	8.0
Adjutant General Corps				.3	13	5.5
Military Intelligence			1.5	2.2		
Chemical Corps			1.2	1.2		
Finance Corps			.3	.3		
Judge Advocate General			.3	.3		
Medical Corps			1.7	.6	4	1.7
Military Police Corps			.3	.9		
Medical Service Corps			.5	.3		
Ordnance Corps			7.4	7.7	24	10.3
Quartermaster Corps			1.2	.9		
Transportation Corps			3.2	2.8		
Professor, USMA				.9	4	1.7
Total (N)	(407)		(407)	(326)	(238)	

a) Air Defense and Field Artillerymen were all in Artillery branch at 1957 graduation and for the purposes of the 1967 survey.

% based upon column total

TABLE 19  
REASONS FOR ARMY BRANCH TRANSFERS AS OF 1967  
85 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Better opportunity for graduate level education	25	29.4
To learn skills useful in civilian life	12	14.1
Considered new branch to be more interesting	28	32.9
Unhappy with old branch	11	12.9
Considered Transportation Corps to be the most appropriate branch for an Army aviator	9	10.6
	<u>85</u>	<u>100.0</u>

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TABLE 20  
NUMBER OF ONE YEAR LENGTH(OR EQUIVALENT) MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS  
AS A DIRECT PARTICIPANT IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT  
422 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

Intended Status, <u>Summer, 1977</u>	<u>Number of Tours per Respondent</u>				
	<u>None</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Three</u>	<u>Total</u>
Army resigned	64	17	3	1	85
Army retired	5	26	16	2	49
Active Army	-	95	92	3	190
Air Force resigned	16	1	1	-	18
Air Force retired	8	6	2	-	16
Active Air Force	<u>9</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>64</u>
Total N	102	186	127	7	422

TABLE 21

DEGREE OF ENJOYMENT OF LT. COLONEL OR COLONEL LEVEL COMMAND EXPERIENCE  
AS RELATED TO TYPE OF COMMAND HELD, ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
179 Respondents Who Have Commanded, Class of 1957, USMA

	Combat Command in Combat <u>Enviorn</u>	Support Unit in Combat <u>Enviorn</u>	Combat Unit in Non- combat <u>Enviorn</u>	Support Unit in Non- combat <u>Enviorn</u>	Training Command	Total
Degree of Enjoyment						
"Glad to be out of it" survival experience	2		4	2	1	9
A mostly-under-the- gun existence	2	1	11	9		23
Enjoyable but with continual difficult relationships	8	4	12	18	2	44
Fun with minor reservations	2	1	17	7	4	31
Really great	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>72</u>
Total	28	8	74	53	16	179
*****		*****			*****	

TABLE 22

REASONS SELECTED FOR REMAINING ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY  
FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIREMENT  
237 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
I have not identified any other suitable civilian occupation	61	25.7
I am happy in the military profession even if never further promoted	54	22.8
I am gambling on eventual further promotion	71	30.0
I expect to continue career promotion progression up the ranks	50	21.1
Will stay until children finish high school (write-in answer)	1	.4
	<u>237</u>	<u>100.0</u>

## POST GRADUATION EDUCATION

### Civilian Education.

A query in 1967 produced the information that 270 (49.5%) of the class had by that time accomplished gaining a graduate level degree. At that time 60.7% of those degrees were held by people on active Army duty, 21.1% by members still in the active Air Force and 18.2% by those who had left military service or were by then deceased. For comparison purposes it should be noted that by that year 26.7% of the class members were no longer on active duty. A similar query in 1977 provided the data in Table 23 which shows that by 1977 only 26.1% of the 440 respondents did not possess graduate degrees. Of significant note are: living members having ever served in the Air Force have a higher proportion of graduate degrees than do those ever associated with the Army; only approximately 50% of class members who resigned from military service before retirement eligibility have gained degrees beyond the bachelor level; proportions of graduate degrees attained among those from each service who will be retired by the summer of 1977 are the same; the two groups who plan to continue active duty in each of the services are possessors of a significantly greater number of graduate degrees than those who will be out of the service.

An effort was made to determine whether there could be found a significant relationship between graduate degrees attained and the position of the recipient on the Graduation Order of Merit list. Table 24 shows a close relationship of numbers of degrees to GOM list increment. A further inquiry, the results of which are found in the same table, investigated the possibility of a relationship between the GOM/graduate degree finding and the number of members from each GOM increment who could be identified as careerists (20 or more years active service). As may be seen in the table, no relationship could be found. However, an unrelated observation revealed that the number of careerists to be found among the respondents from the upper and lower GOM increments was proportionally significantly lower than that of other increments.

### Military Education.

A presentation of levels of military education attained by the respondents is found in Table 25. Derived from that table is the fact that the 105 Senior Service (War) College attendees identified represents 34.3% of the 306 respondents in the grade of Lieutenant Colonel or higher who have by now attained the required amount of time in military service to be eligible for selection for attendance at the highest level military education institution.

TABLE 23  
DISTRIBUTION OF LEVELS OF EDUCATION  
AS RELATED TO INTENDED STATUS AS OF SUMMER, 1977  
440 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>PhD</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>JD</u>	<u>LLB</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>MBA</u> <u>MPA</u>	<u>MEd</u>	<u>MS</u> <u>MSE</u>	<u>BS</u> (%)	<u>Total</u>
<u>Army</u>										
Resigned	4	2	2	1	7	5	2	18	44(51.8)	85
Retired	2	2	1		8	6	3	13	14(28.6)	49
Active	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>30(15.8)</u>	<u>190</u>
Total Army	19	6	3	2	44	35	8	119	88(27.2)	324
<u>Air Force</u>										
Resigned		1			1	1	2	4	9(50.0)	18
Retired	1		1			1		8	5(31.3)	16
Active	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>7(10.9)</u>	<u>64</u>
Total Air Force	7	1	1		6	14	3	45	21(21.4)	98
<u>No U.S. Service</u>						1			2(66.7)	3
<u>Deceased</u>	2				4	2		3	4(26.7)	15
TOTAL	28	7	4	2	54	52	11	167	115(26.1)	440

% based upon row total



TABLE 24  
DISTRIBUTION OF GRADUATE LEVEL CIVILIAN EDUCATION DEGREES  
AMONG INCREMENTS OF THE GRADUATION ORDER OF MERIT LIST  
440 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents Having Graduate Degrees	Percent of Careerists Among Respondents
Upper 27	24	87.5	58.3
Next 55	46	91.3	80.4
Next 55	43	81.4	74.4
Next 81	67	80.6	73.1
Middle 110	91	79.1	78.0
Next 81	64	56.3	65.6
Next 55	40	67.5	70.0
Next 55	42	61.9	81.0
Lower 27	23	52.2	52.2
Total 546	440	73.9	72.5
(N) (546)	(440)	(325)	(319)

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TABLE 25  
HIGHEST LEVEL OF IN-RESIDENCE MILITARY EDUCATION ATTENDED  
430 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	N	%
Senior Service (War) College	105	24.4
Command and Staff College	126	29.3
Career or Advance Course	71	16.3
Squadron Officer Course	25	5.8
Basic Branch Course	53	12.3
Not applicable	50	11.6
Total	430	100.0

### MILITARY PROMOTIONS

One of the uses to which data were put in 1967 was to attempt to determine whether the social origins and early associations of members of the class could be used as predictors of early promotion in the Army. By mid-1966 40 members of the class serving in the Army had been selected, in two increments of 22 and 18, respectively, for accelerated promotion to the grade of Major and 247 had later been selected for routine promotion. An analysis of the group, using all social origins and early associations information, revealed that a member of that group raised in the urban vs rural community was slightly more likely, statistically speaking, to be selected for early promotion. More noteworthy was the finding that early promotion was directly and significantly (.007 level) related to high rank held as a cadet at West Point. No other factors were found to be significant. Table 26 shows the relationship between cadet rank and selection for promotion to Major. It is evident from inspection of this table that those who had been cadet captains secured a significantly greater proportion of the early promotions and that senior and junior lieutenants followed closely.

A logical follow-on inquiry, using data gathered in 1977, was to determine whether those who held high cadet rank continued to be overrepresented among the frontrunners in the military promotion system. All class members who had been selected for promotion to the grade of Colonel or higher had received at least one early promotion. No class member had been selected for promotion to Colonel who had experienced an earlier accelerated promotion but subsequently had failed to be selected for routine promotion to a higher grade. Thus, this group of Air Force and Army Colonels, including two Brigadier Generals, was used for comparison with all other serving members. With reasonable assurance that a statistically representative sample of the class and of those remaining on active is to found in the 440 who responded to the questionnaire in 1977, one can readily see in Table 27 that not only does the relationship between cadet rank and military promotion success continue to hold, it has increased in its importance over time for the group as a whole. Not apparent in this table is that one brigadier had been a cadet captain and one a cadet sergeant which sets the stage for further inquiry into the rank/promotion hypothesis in 1987.

In pursuit of other facets of early and routine promotion (or non-promotion) experiences, field grade rank (Major, Lt. Colonel and Colonel) was related to the number of early promotions ever received. Table 28, which shows the results and also includes the two recently selected Brigadiers, demonstrates that an



officer had to have been early selected thrice, by 1977 and the completion of almost 20 years of service, for promotion to the field grade ranks to be among the contenders for early promotion to Brigadier General.

In response to the question, "Have you ever failed to be selected for promotion to a field grade rank when considered among those in a primary (routine promotion) zone of consideration?", 51 (30 Army and 21 Air Force) of 430 respondents reported that they had failed to be selected. These 51 indicated that their intended status, or serious leaning, by the summer of 1977 would be: Army resigned, 4; Army retired, 8; Army active, 18; USAF resigned, 3; USAF retired, 5; USAF active, 13. An illustration that previous early promoteds could fall to the same fate was the revelation that of that 51, seven members who had been early-selected once and three members early-selected twice for previous promotions had failed to be selected later for a routine promotion to a subsequent rank.

The 1967 data showed that of 511 class members for whom such information was known, 76 had by then served as an aide to a general officer and an additional six had served as an aide twice. In response to a 1977 query as to whether class members had served, subsequent to promotion to the grade of major, as an aide or executive to a general or to a national government official of comparable rank, 55 (16.3%) of 338 reporting respondents who had served in the grade of major indicated that they had served in such a position. Whether having held such a position was related to current rank was explored in Table 29 which shows a direct relationship between higher rank and having so served. Which element is cause and which element is effect was left undetermined.

The latest questionnaire included the question, "Given the opportunity, would you desire to be promoted to the grade of general and assume the responsibilities of that grade?" and "Do you believe that you will become a general officer and, if so, what level do you feel you will attain?". Table 30, which integrates the answers to those two questions, reveals that 69.6% of 415 respondents desired to be a general but that of 208 who would continue on active duty and desired to be a general, only 45 (21.6%) thought they would attain stars and only two anticipated three or four stars.

The perceptions of their potential for general officership by respondents who plan to continue active duty was compared with whether each had yet been selected for command or equivalent at the Colonel level. Table 31, showing the comparison, reveals what appears to be a strong perception that selection for Colonel level command is an indicator of future generalship or, alternately, that promotion to the grade of Colonel is the more important and deciding factor.

When comparing general officership expectations with answers to the question, "Do you associate the success you have experienced in your career with your long term relationship with a successful officer(s) who is senior to you?", the relationships found in Table 32 come to light. Noteworthy is the lack of association between expectations and senior officer help.

It is impossible to determine whether those who consider themselves to be upward mobile are those who have served on high level military and national staffs, whether service on those staffs results in the individual feeling that he will progress or whether there is any relationship at all. Nevertheless, the amount of service on the national executive, legislative, Department of Defense or military service level performed by respondents who plan to be on active duty after summer, 1977, is cross referenced with their perceptions of whether they will attain general officer status in Table 33. Found there is information that 46% of those who do not expect to be generals have never served on a high level staff whereas only 5% of those who expect to be generals have not so served. An additional fact to be found in this table is that as many as 40% of these respondents, who have been on active duty for nearly 20 years, have yet to serve a tour of duty at the Pentagon or higher level.

TABLE 26<sup>a</sup>

DISTRIBUTION OF CADET RANKS  
AMONG TYPES OF SELECTION FOR PROMOTION TO ARMY MAJOR  
Army Members, Class of 1957, USMA

Type Promotion Selection	Senior		Junior		Senior		Total
	Captain	Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Sergeant	Sergeant		
Early	(N)	(8)	(6)	(7)	(1)	(18)	(40)
	%	29.6	25.0	17.5	3.0	9.9	13.1
Routine		(19)	(18)	(33)	(27)	(150)	(247)
		70.4	75.0	82.5	81.8	82.9	81.0
Not Selected				(5)	(13)	(18)	
				15.2	7.2	5.9	
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	(27)	(24)	(40)	(33)	(181)	(305)	

% based upon column total

a) Adapted from William L. Golden, Social Origins and Early Associations as Predictors of Early Promotion of U.S. Army Officers, MA Thesis, University of Chicago, January, 1968, p.43, Table XVI.

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TABLE 27

CADET RANK OF 1977 RESPONDENTS EVER SELECTED FOR PROMOTION TO COLONEL  
74 Colonel<sup>a</sup> Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Lieutenant</u>	<u>Lieutenant</u>	<u>Sergeant</u>	<u>Sergeant</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Distribution of Colonels According to Cadet Rank Held:</u>						
Number of Colonels	13	13	12	9	27	74
% of 74 Colonels	17.6	17.6	16.2	12.2	36.5	100.0
<u>Colonels as a percent of total cadets who held each cadet rank:</u>						
Number of cadets who held that rank	42	42	72	58	332	546
% of Colonels from that number	31.0	31.0	16.7	15.5	8.1	100.0
<u>Colonels as a percent of 1977 respondents from each cadet rank who have not left military service prior to completion of 20 years active duty (Careerists) and therefore equally sharing in opportunities for promotion:</u>						
Number of careerists of that cadet rank	25	31	48	34	184	322
% of those careerists now Colonels	52.0	41.9	25.0	26.5	14.7	100.0

TABLE 28

HIGHEST RANK FOR WHICH SELECTED VS NUMBER OF EARLY PROMOTIONS EVER RECEIVED  
333 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	Number of early promotions				
	One	Two	Three	Four	Never
General				2	
Colonel	41	20	11		
Lt. Colonel	14	2			215
Major	2 <sup>a</sup>				27
Total	57	22	11	2	242

a) One member selected left service before promotion and another shortly after.

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TABLE 29

HIGHEST RANK HELD AS RELATED TO HAVING SERVED AS A HIGH LEVEL AIDE  
OR EXECUTIVE WHILE A FIELD GRADE OFFICER  
338 Field Grade Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	Brigadier General %	Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	Combined
Was Aide or Executive	50.0	28.2	13.8	6.1	16.3
Was Not	50.0	71.8	86.2	93.9	83.7
Total (N)	(2)	(71)	(232)	(33)	(338)

% based upon column total

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TABLE 30

DESIRE TO BE VS EXPECTATION TO BE A GENERAL OFFICER  
415 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>Desire to be General</u>	<u>Do not desire</u>	<u>Total</u>
Will not be on active duty after summer, 1977	81	74	155
Probably will not be a general officer	163	51	214
Will attain one star	14	1	15
Will attain two stars	29		29
Will attain three or four stars	2		2
Total	289	126	415

TABLE 31  
EFFECT OF SELECTION FOR COLONEL LEVEL COMMAND  
ON EXPECTATION OF PROMOTION TO GENERAL  
182 Careerists, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>Never be a General</u>	<u>One Star</u>	<u>Two Stars</u>	<u>Three or Four Stars</u>
Colonels selected for Colonel level command	14	6	16	1
Colonels not yet selected	22	4	5	1
Lieutenant Colonels	169	5	8	

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TABLE 32  
GENERAL OFFICERSHIP EXPECTATIONS VS  
RELATIONSHIP WITH A SENIOR OFFICER  
Intended Active Duty Members, Class of 1957, USMA  
Is your success due to the help of some senior officer?

	<u>Definitely</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not necessarily</u>	<u>Definitely Not</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>
Probably will not be a general	7	11	24	164	9	215
Will attain one star	1		2	11	1	15
Will attain two stars		3	4	22		29
Will attain three or four stars	1		1			2
Total	9	14	31	197	10	261

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TABLE 33  
GENERAL OFFICERSHIP EXPECTATIONS VS  
YEARS OF SERVICE ON HIGH LEVEL STAFF  
Intended Active Duty Members, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>None</u>	<u>One-Two</u>	<u>Three-Four</u>	<u>Five-More</u>	<u>Total</u>
Not be general	99	46	61	9	215
One Star	4	4	9	1	15
Two Stars	2	8	13	6	29
Three or Four Stars				2	2
	105	58	83	18	261



#### DECORATIONS

Results of the 1967 survey to which 95+% of living class members responded showed that 67.3% of Air Force class members and 24.3% of Army class members had not yet served in the Vietnam conflict which was by then, in terms of mass U.S. involvement, only 2½ years old. In that survey class members reported a total of 757 military decorations, of Commendation Medal or higher, having been awarded to them. The 1977 survey addressed the same subject with the results shown in Table 34. A totalling of all decorations, less Air Medals, received by the 437 reporting members of the class amounts to 1599. Assuming that this is a proportional representation one can project with a reasonable degree of accuracy that the total number of decorations received by all members who have served in the U.S. military approximates the number 1983. One should note that these figures include only awards for valorous or meritorious performance of military duty and do not include service ("where he was, when") ribbons.

Awards of the Air Medal are addressed separately due to the sheer volume of the number involved. It was reported that the 437 members identified had received a total of 1488 Air Medals with 928 being awarded to 324 who had served in the Army and 560 to 98 who had served in the Air Force. While the Air Force members averaged a higher 5.7 medals compared with 2.9 per Army member, Army members took the two top positions for the most number earned by an individual with 65 and 57 awards, respectively, with the closest Air Force awardee receiving 28. A projection, again assuming a representative sample, of the number of awards with Air Medals included provides the figure 3828.

TABLE 34

MILITARY DECORATIONS RECEIVED AS RELATED TO INTENDED STATUS AS OF SUMMER, 1977  
437 Respondents, Class of 1957, USNA

	DSC	AFC	DSM	SS	LOM	DFC	SM	BSM	MSM	CM	PH
Intended status, summer, 1977											
Army resigned (85)							1	11-3	4	21-6-1	2
Army retired (49)			1	3	10-5	3-1	2	24-6-6-0-2	22-1-1	18-14-6-4	4-0-1
Army active (190)	1			10-1-2	60-10	13-3-0-1	5	87-43-20-11-5-3-1	88-57-12	68-66-29-7-3	20-2
Sub-total, number of awards to Army	1		1	18	106	32	8	408	269	446	31
USAF resigned (18)											
						1-1	1	1	1	3-1-0-1	1
USAF retired (16)						2-2		3	5	7-3-1	2
USAF active (64)	1			5	2-1	21-11-4-3	1	20-1	28-21	29-20-3-3	5
Sub-total, number of awards to USAF	1			5	4	76	1	26	76	99	8
Deceased Members	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
Total number of awards by type	2		1	24	114	111	9	435	345	558	43

LEGEND: DSC=Distinguished Service Cross, AFC=Air Force Cross, DSM=Distinguished Service Medal, SS=Silver Star, LOM=Legion of Merit, DFC=Distinguished Flying Cross, SM=Soldier's Medal, AM=Airman's Medal, BSM=Bronze Star Medal, MSM=Meritorious Service Medal, CM=Commendation Medal, PH=Purple Heart.

Individuals receiving multiple awards of the same medal denoted by hyphenated numbers, e.g., 5-3-1 indicates 5 members received the award once, 3 received it twice and one received it thrice.

## CIVIL LIFE

Of the 735 fledgling cadets who entered the U.S. Military Academy as plebes on 7 July 1953, including 14 who had been members of the preceeding class and had been turned back one year, 546 graduated on 4 June 1957. Those who were U.S. citizens (4 were foreign cadets) and were physically qualified (one was not) were obligated to serve satisfactorily as commissioned officers for three years. The evolutionary exodus of class members from active military service, which began in 1958, as pictured from the time of graduation through a date just following the 1967 survey to a time just preceeding the 1977 survey is shown in Table 35. One is readily able to see that the larger percentage of those who failed to complete a career in the military left it before 1967. This becomes more apparent when one realizes that those who did serve the complete career and who had served on active duty prior to West Point were eligible for retirement prior to December 1976 at which time some of them did retire.

Individual departures of respondents from active duty by year are shown in Table 36 which shows that the surge of departures began in 1960 upon eligibility for release from duty and continued rather uniformly, at a reduced rate, for the next seven years by which time 152 members had gone to pursue their fortunes in the civilian world. Unfortunately it was death that became the cause for the loss of 29 class members over the 20 year period. The then-current status, cause and year of death of those 29 members is depicted in Table 37. As would be expected Air Force members led in the number deceased due to air accidents. Not expected, however, was the realization that Air Force members, who comprised 24.9% of class members at graduation, suffered 40% of the Vietnam deaths in the class. This is particularly noteworthy when considered in the light that 21.3% of careerist Air Force members never served in the Vietnam combat environment as compared to the 2.1% of Army careerists who never served there.

Responses to the question of what will be the military/civil life status of members when all reach eligibility for retirement from military service provided the information in Table 38 which show that only one of 72 reporting active duty Colonels plans to be out of the military, 23.8% of Lt. Colonels will have departed and six Majors will continue on after 20 years.

A look at the military/civil life ratio would not be complete without asking the reasons for departure from one to the other as was done in the 1977 survey and the results of which are shown in Table 39. Candor is evident in the answers of the 24% who related their departure to dim career prospects, non-selection for

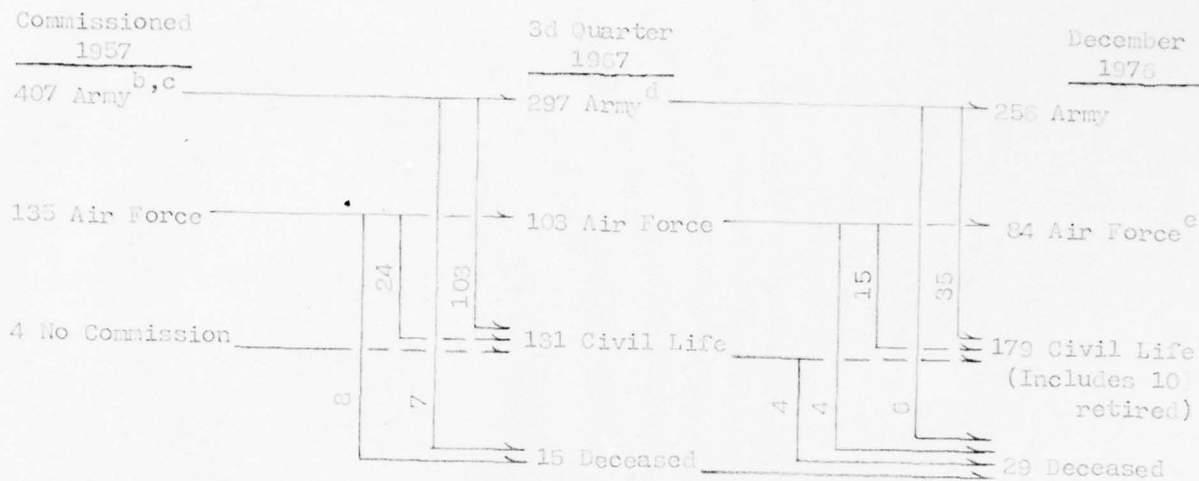
promotion and the fact that they were forced out by the service. The motivation of "doing better" on the outside is also very evident in the 32.3% response to that reason as it was structured in the questionnaire.

Respondents were also asked their perceptions of the success and potential of their military careers as found at survey time or when they had earlier left military service. Table 40 reflects no significant difference between percentages of Army and Air Force careerists who perceive their career situations according to the various categories offered. Of significance, however, is the skewing toward the lower end of the spectrum of perceptions by those from both services who will be retired or retiring after completion of 20 years of service and also by those who had resigned from the Air Force.

Some observers of the social scene suggest that a 30+ years of age changing life situation, or "male menopause", comes for some men in the form of a mid-life crisis wherein the man finds himself in a psychological strain because his job no longer seems so great, his life's goals have gradually become seemingly unattainable, his wife may no longer seem so desirable as the secretary in the next office with whom he seems to have developed some rapport, and his general life's plan has somehow gone slightly awry. The realization and impact of such a phenomenon was explored among the members of the class, with a view toward correlation with departure from military service and other events, and the results are compared in Table 41 with the military/civil life status which each member plans to occupy as of summer, 1977. Not surprisingly, more of those who had resigned from the Army indicated having made drastic to moderate changes in their lives. USAF resignees' findings did not agree. Also not surprising is the change or intention to change among those who will be retired. A caution: It is difficult to determine whether there was a 30+ year of age crisis involved in the answers given, and whether respondents were reacting to the departure-from-service-trauma is not clear. Another possible explanation for such a reaction will be explored later.

From those who had previously left military service, answers concerning type of civilian employment and annual family gross income provided the display in Table 42. Gross income answers differ markedly in 1977 from those of 1967 when after a maximum of four years in civil life 7.1% of civil life members reported earning \$15-20,000 and only 2.5% reported earning over \$20,000. This may be contrasted now with only 13.2% reporting making less than \$25,000, the bulk (67%) earning \$25-50,000 and 4% reporting earning over \$100,000 annually. The types of civilian employment and the range of remuneration therefore are self-evident.

TABLE 35  
MILITARY TO CIVIL LIFE EVOLUTION<sup>a</sup>  
546 Members, Class of 1957, USMA



- a) Data extracted primarily from West Point Alumni Foundation, Inc. Register of Graduates and Former Cadets, USMA. West Point, N.Y., Editions 1968 and 1976 and updated by information from other informal sources.
- b) From Special Order 107, HQs, Dept of Army, Washington, D.C., 1 June 1957.
- c) Includes one foreign cadet who opted for U.S. commissioned service.
- d) Includes three members who left and returned to active duty.
- e) From official personnel roster, USAF Personnel Center, January 1977.

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TABLE 36  
DEPARTURES FROM MILITARY SERVICE BY YEAR  
498 Members, Class of 1957, USMA

Year	Death	Civil	Year	Death	Civil	
No U.S. Service		4	1969	4	7	
1957-59	2	4	1970		4	
1960		51	1971		2	
1961		16	1972	3	4	Will decide after being considered for the next routine promotion
1962		11	1973	2		
1963		13	1974		3	Staying on indefinitely
1964	4	10	1975	2	2	
1965	1	10	1976	1	7	
1966	3	9				Total Civil 214
1967	5	9	Will retire in 1977		41	Total Deceased 29
1968	2	7			214	Grand Total 498



TABLE 37  
YEAR AND CAUSE OF DEATH BY TYPE MILITARY SERVICE AT DEATH  
29 Deceased Members, Class of 1957, USMA

Year	Active Army				Ex-Army	Active USAF			Ex-USAF	Total
	KIA	Air Acdt	Acdt	Died	Died	KIA	Air Acdt	Died	Air Acdt	
1957							1			1
1958							1			1
1964	1		2				1			4
1965	1									1
1966	1						1	1		3
1967	1	1				2	1			5
1968		1				1				2
1969	2			1		1				4
1972				1	1				1	
1973					1		1			2
1975				1	1					2
1976								1		1
Total	6	2	2	3	3	4	6	2	1	29

KIA=Killed in Action, Vietnam  
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TABLE 38  
PLANNED CIVIL LIFE/MILITARY STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY SUMMER, 1977,  
AS RELATED TO THE HIGHEST ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY RANK EVER HELD

Intended status, summer, 1977	Brigadier General	Colonel	Lieut. Colonel	Major	Captain	Lieut.	No U.S. Service
Army resigned			7	13	23	43	
Army retired		1	37	6	4	1	
Army active	1	54	131	3			
USAF resigned			1	2	12	3	
USAF retired			9	2	4	1	
USAF active	1	16	44	3			
Deceased			4	4	5	2	
No U.S. Svc.		1 <sup>a</sup>					2

a) Former foreign cadet now serving as Colonel in Philippine Constabulary

TABLE 39  
REASONS FOR LEAVING ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE  
192 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	N	%
Required medical retirement	11	5.7
The service forced me out	7	3.7
Not selected for promotion	15	7.8
Career prospects were dim	25	13.0
Could not get desired education in the service	10	5.2
Difficult family life	16	8.3
Disliked regimentation and the system	20	10.4
No freedom of thought and expression	7	3.6
Obligated to help with the family business	3	1.6
Believed I could do better or make more money as a civilian	62	32.3
Wanted to enter a special field not available in the service	16	8.3
	—	—
	192	100.0

PERCEPTION OF CURRENT OR FORMER MILITARY CAREER  
ACCORDING TO INTENDED STATUS AS OF SUMMER, 1977  
420 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

Career Perception	Army Careerists			USAF Careerists			Total %
	Resigned %	Retired %	Active % Combined %	Resigned %	Retired %	Active % Combined %	
Moving along smashing	10.8		3.7 2.9		6.3	3.1 3.8	4.5
Doing better than most	31.3	12.2	27.4 24.3	33.3	25.0	34.4 32.5	27.6
Doing as well as the next	34.9	59.2	48.4 50.6	33.3	31.3	42.2 40.0	44.8
Not doing so well as the average	15.7	10.2	14.7 13.8	16.7	6.3	10.9 10.0	13.6
Floundering	7.2	18.4	5.8 8.4	16.7	31.3	9.4 13.8	9.5
(N)	(83)	(49)	(190) (239)	(18)	(16)	(64) (80)	(420)

% based upon column total

TABLE 41

EFFECT OF CHANGING LIFE SITUATION  
AS RELATED TO INTENDED STATUS AS OF SUMMER, 1977

Effect on Respondent	Army Resigned %	Army Retired %	Active Army %	USAF Resigned %	USAF Retired %	Active USAF %	Total %
I made drastic changes and took off in a new direction	30.6	10.2	5.8	16.7	13.3	4.7	11.8
I made moderate but permanent changes in my life	21.2	18.4	12.1	11.1	13.3	12.5	14.9
I intend to make some change soon	5.9	22.4	6.3	5.6	33.3	12.5	9.9
I explored alternatives but returned to my usual pursuits	14.1	8.2	10.5	33.3	13.3	2.2	13.7
I struggled with this but never seriously considered changing	3.5	8.2	16.8		13.3	12.5	11.6
I recognized the phenomenon but it didn't really apply to me	20.0	16.3	35.3	16.7	6.7	21.9	26.2
I know not of what you speak (N)	4.7 (85)	16.3 (49)	13.2 (190)	16.7 (18)	6.7 (15)	14.1 (64)	12.0 (421)

% based upon column total

TABLE 42  
ANNUAL FAMILY GROSS INCOME  
ACCORDING TO TYPE CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT  
151 Respondents in Civil Life, Class of 1957, USMA

Annual Family Gross Income Including Wife's (in thousands)								
	Under 10	10-20	20-25	25-35	35-50	50-75	75-100	Over 100
								Total
Medicine and Law				3	3	2		2
Education		2	3	5	3	1		
Investment and Finance		1		5	2	1	1	1
Aviation and Aerospace				4	11	4		
Business Equip & Data Process				4	5	5		
Other Managem't and Sales	1	2	3	16	13	3	4	
Industrial Engineering				3	3			
Real Estate & Build/Construct	1			3	4	2	1	3
Fed., State or Local Gov't	2	2	3	4	9			
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	7	9	48	53	18	6	6



## FAMILY LIFE

The marital status of class members was sought in the 1967 and 1977 surveys. Table 43 summarizes the results and reflects the fact that 80.4% of 439 respondents in 1977 had been married once and remained so. The 1.9% of members twice married by 1967 had increased to 9.1% by 1977. Seven respondents continued to embrace bachelorhood and four respondents were widowers.

An hypothesis often supposed, that marriages of military service members have a high rate of dissolution due to repeated separations and other dysfunctional aspects of military life, was tested by comparing the success rates of marriages among class careerists against that of non-careerists. Using the criterion of remaining-once-married as success, the success rate for careerists was found to be 87.5% as opposed to a rate of 67.3% for non-careerists. An overall success rate for class respondents was 82.5%. While this might be interpreted as strong evidence that careerists' marriages are significantly more successful, it could also suggest a relationship between leaving military service at mid-career and the possibility that the unsuccessful marriage was a contributing factor to that decision to leave.

The relative age of the most recent wife of each respondent was requested in both surveys. Table 44 presents a compilation of those data and reveals an 8% increase in wives of an age four or more years younger than that of their husbands. The obvious assumption that divorced members have married younger women is supported by comparing the median relative age of the wives of "remain once married" members, found to be "2 to 3 years younger", with the same measurement for remarried members found to be "6 to 7 years younger". Additional evidence is found in the fact that one third of 45 respondents who had remarried reported marrying women 10 or more years younger.

Whether there was to be found a significant relationship between changes in marital status over the years and the previously addressed "male menopause" was addressed and found to contain none. Whether this finding strengthens the idea that "change of life" effects were reflected in departures from the military remains a clouded issue due to the possibility of the impact of many other considerations.

The women's rights awareness milieu of today suggested questions of education and employment of wives and whether they were being employed in consonance with the level of education they had attained. The levels of respondents' wives' education is addressed in Table 45. The utilization of that education in the

employment in which wives were engaged is assessed in Table 46 where it may be found that slightly less than half of respondents' wives were working and that one third of those working were not engaged in activities compatible with their education levels or subjects.

The fate of the widows of 29 class members, of interest to all living members, is reflected in the facts that two deceased members were bachelors, one wife died as a result of the accident in which her husband died, the former wife of one deceased had remarried and his widow had not, nine widows had remarried, including one who was later divorced, 12 additional had not remarried and the status of the remaining four was unknown.

#### Children.

Survey data of 1967 showed that at a time when 24 members remained bachelors and 31 married class members reported having no children, 458 class members reported having produced a total of 1174 children for average replacement rates of 2.29 children per reporting class member, 2.40 per married member and 2.56 per father. Included in that number were 624 males and 550 females for a ratio of 1.13 to 1. The largest reported number of children in a family was six.

Table 47 presents a distribution of size families of 440 respondents to the 1977 survey wherein they reported a total of 1253 children. That total was comprised of 680 males and 573 females for a 1977 ratio of 1.18 to 1 and represented 2.84 children per class member. A projection of this representative sample to the entire class results in an estimate that the class has now produced approximately 1555 children.

Figures on number of children among respondents include seven sets of twin boys, four sets of twin girls, six sets of fraternal twins and 14 reported step or adopted children.

Inquiry was made into whether class members had passed on their given names to their sons and whether they themselves had been recipients of given names in the continuation of a given name lineage. Results showed that 125 (28.9%) of responding class members had been named a Junior, III or other identifier and that 58.3% of those so named and who had sons had passed that given name on to a son. Additionally, 23.6% of those who had sons but had not themselves been named after a relative had passed their given names on.

A query concerning class children attending or accepted for attendance at one of the national service academies elicited responses which indicated that 14 class members had offspring in or enroute to an academy including one female for each of West Point, the Air Force Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy.

TABLE 43  
CURRENT MARITAL STATUS AS OF 1967 AND 1977 SURVEYS  
Class of 1957, USMA

		Marital Status						Total Respondents
		Married Once and Remain So	Married Once and Divorced	Married Twice	Married More Than Twice	Widower	Bachelor	
1967	%	93.3	0.4	1.9			4.6	100.0
Survey	N	488	2	10			24	523
1977	%	80.4	6.8	9.1	1.1	0.9	1.6	100.0
Survey	N	353	30	40	5	4	7	439

% based upon row total

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TABLE 44  
AGE OF MOST RECENT WIFE  
RELATIVE TO AGE OF RESPONDENT  
Class of 1957, USMA

1967 Survey (N=514)		Wife Age Relative to That of Spouse	1977 Survey (N=440)	
%	N		%	N
2.3	12	4 or more years older	1.8	8
4.3	22	2 or 3 older	3.6	16
31.3	161	within one year	34.1	150**
33.9	174	2 or 3 younger	27.0	119*
23.5	121	4 or more younger	31.6	147
9.3	48	4 younger		
		4 or 5 younger	17.5	77*
14.2	73	5 or more younger		
		6 or 7 younger	6.8	30****
		8 or 9 younger	2.3	10**
		10 or more younger	5.0	22*
4.7	24	Never married	1.8	8

Each \* represents one 1967 bachelor who is now included in the 1977 marrieds.

TABLE 45

DISTRIBUTION OF MOST RECENT WIVES ACCORDING TO THEIR EDUCATION LEVELS AS OF 1977  
430 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	PhD	Masters	College Graduate	Some College	Hi School Graduate	Some Hi School	Total
N	4	29	177	154	63	3	430
%	.9	6.7	41.2	35.8	14.7	.7	100.0

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TABLE 46

DEGREE OF AND REASON FOR WIFE'S EMPLOYMENT  
AS RELATED TO COMPATABILITY WITH TYPE AND LEVEL OF HER EDUCATION  
423 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

Degree of and reason for employment	Does kind of employment reflect type and level of education?		Total	
	Yes N=118	No NN=56	N	%
Full time although not financially necessary	33	11	44	10.4
Full time, necessary	29	17	46	10.9
Part time although not financially necessary	39	15	54	12.8
Part time, necessary	17	12	29	6.9
Not employed			230	54.4
			423	100.0

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TABLE 47

DISTRIBUTION OF 1977 RESPONDENTS  
ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY  
440 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	Number of children in family								Total
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	None	
Number of Respondents	21	144	142	74	27	11	3	18	440
Percent of Respondents	4.8	32.2	32.6	17.0	6.2	2.5	0.7	3.9	100.0
Total number of children	21	288	426	296	135	66	21		1253



## ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS

Capitalizing on the opportunity to capture the attitudes and opinions of a group such as this cohort, sampled at a time which might be one of significant change in life style for many of them, provided some noteworthy insights. The resulting answers from a query on self-perception of political orientation and from agreement/disagreement reactions to a series of statements on issues relating to the nation, the military, the U.S. Military Academy and others are found in this section. Tables 48 and 49 present findings on political leanings and Table 50 contains the twenty statements and the compilation of responses to each.

A caveat: It is recognized that the definitions of terms and the meanings of phrases in the statements are to found in the minds of their readers and therefore may vary greatly from respondent to respondent. It is also recognized that the manner in which a statement is phrased can have a profound impact upon the reaction to it. Thus, one's interpretation of reactions to the statements must be tempered by the wide range of possible psychological impacts of the phraseology on the respondents.

### Political Viewpoint.

Class members were asked in both surveys to identify their political outlook by answering the question, "In political affairs do you consider yourself conservative, somewhat conservative, somewhat liberal or liberal?". Table 48 demonstrates that the aggregated political leaning of respondents who in 1967 were members of a predominantly conservative oriented group has moved even further toward the conservative end of the continuum. Surprisingly, however, to one who might make the assumption that the shift was relatively universal among respondents, is the presentation in Table 49 which shows that 42.3% of the 1967 conservatives as well as 13.3% of the somewhat conservative group have shifted in the liberal direction. The most dramatic shifts from 1967 positions are to be found among the then liberals and somewhat liberals who moved toward the conservative at rates of 95.4% and 63.1%, respectively. A search was conducted among such factors as graduate education and departure from military service for possible correlations with this political change. None was found.

### Statements and Reactions.

Morris Janowitz, in his now classic 1960 study of the U.S. military officer corps, The Professional Soldier, while reporting the value of an academy education to the professional officer, described a number of details of the entry into the



academy and the assumed effect of the plebe (freshman) indoctrination and socialization system upon the individual as a cadet and later as an officer. The statement to the survey audience that that stressful year lived by the plebe was a worthwhile rite of passage to have experienced, in terms of ability to cope with stressful situations in later life, was supported strongly by the reactions to it (See Table 50 for a presentation of this and all subsequent statements and responses). To interpret this response as to whether it reflects the respondents' psychological need to value a deprivation situation or whether there is actual value in the "training" itself is left to the reader of this report.

The 1976 honor violation episode involving the separation of 134 cadets from West Point and the subsequent recommendation by the special investigation committee chaired by Frank Borman that dismissed cadets be readmitted, as well as events involving the Corps of Cadets voting for the purpose of determining whether the Cadet Honor Code should be modified, precipitated statements 2, 3 and 4 concerning the West Point Honor Code. Analysis of reactions to those statements revealed that the class of 1957 agreed to an overwhelming degree that the cadet code and system were honorably administered during the years when they were cadets. The class leaned (66.1%) toward the view that recently dismissed cadets should not be readmitted to the academy with 36.5% feeling "strongly" that way. A larger percentage (65%) felt that current cadets should not be allowed to change an honor code, valued highly by most graduates, by merely voting.

A statement addressing the need to keep the academy superintendent free of influences exerted by West Point graduates (underlain by an hypothesis that many feel that they should be heard and heeded even though they contribute nothing to the institution but unsolicited advice) produced reactions uniformly distributed from strong agreement to strong disagreement, possibly due to the respondents' inability to divine the purpose of the relatively value-free statement.

The statement that the public views professional military officers as those who would not be successful in civilian life received 62% disagreement and a fairly definite skewing of the group to the disagreement direction. The distribution of reactions by class members who were careerists was compared with those of members who had left service before completion of 20 years active duty and found to not be significantly different.

The supposition that advancement in the military is a function of having someone senior caring for the officer's career is strongly supported with slightly more than 75% of respondents providing some degree of agreement. This reaction

is surprising in light of the information presented earlier regarding promotions wherein the great majority of careerists indicated that they had "definitely not" or "not necessarily" been helped in their careers by senior officers. A comparison of reactions by careerists and by non-careerists shows no difference. The explanation for this discrepancy may lie in the feelings of respondents that while they themselves have not been helped by seniors they perceive that others have benefited from that kind of relationship.

Integrity among Armed Forces officers continues to be a subject of continual discussion and of considerable concern to those officers, if not from a sense that officers lack integrity than from a desire that a perceived high state of integrity be always maintained foremost in the minds of the officer corps. Reaction to the position that officer integrity is situational and varies with the locale and the personalities encountered at each was mixed but leaning slightly to agreement. Again no significant differences were noted between the reactions recorded by careerists and by non-careerists nor between Army and Air Force respondents.

Emphasis upon the desirability of officially noting the performance of the officer's wife in her support of the military unit or community has been cyclical over the years. The suggestion that her performance should be made a matter of record on the efficiency (performance) report of the officer concerned was met with resounding disdain in the form of a 79% nay vote. Unfortunately, a similar question was not asked in 1967 and therefore there is no basis upon which to assess whether there has been any change in this position over the ten years of considerable change in the views concerning the roles of women.

The supposition that the best people are promoted to the general officer ranks (statement 10) received a reaction slightly skewed in the agreement direction with no significant strong percentages for or against. A tilt to the disagreement side was encountered in reactions to the suggestion that brigadiers are the most difficult soldiers for officers to handle for the reason that they may be trying to make names and reputations for themselves. Here, again, no substantial strong reaction was found.

Topically pertinent at the time was the racial composition of the Armed Forces under the no draft volunteer forces concept. Public discussion had addressed the projection of a continuing increase in the proportion of black members of the enlisted ranks as the services attracted enlistees from the lower socio-economic and educational stratum of society. Some discussions centered

on the potential impact of a black majority Army in the service of a white majority nation. To the proposition that such a consequence would have little effect so long as the military services were professional and competent was met with a majority of agreeing reactions although 30% of respondents were on the moderately to strongly disagree side.

Another statement involving an issue of race and advancing the idea that due to historical inequities black officers should be promoted ahead of equally qualified white officers drew a negative response second in strength only to the previously discussed positive reaction for the administration of the cadet honor code of twenty years ago. The distribution of reactions among respondents according to their conservative to liberal political leanings was scrutinized for any significant correlation but none was found. One may opine here whether the response was skewed by the influence of a belief by class members in the equality of service promotion systems or possibly by the influence of the potential threat to personal career goals and aspirations were such a policy to be adopted.

Another topical subject being studied and debated at the time was the role women should play in the manning (womaning) of the Armed Forces. Reaction to the statement (#14) that women should be permitted to perform combat jobs was mixed but with twice as many respondents reacting with a strong disagreement as those reacting in any other category. Responses were again analyzed according to the position of respective respondents on the conservative-liberal continuum with no significant differences found.

Moderately strong agreement was the reaction to the statement that the benefits of military service have eroded to the point where they are no longer a factor in the decision to pursue a military career. Possible differences of opinion among those who had left military service before completion of 20 years of service from those who were careerists was investigated and found to be significant. The median for careerists' responses was found to be at the "moderately agree" level, responses from those who had left service before career completion were found to be evenly distributed among agreement and disagreement categories and a sub-group of the non-careerists, those who had left service in 1960 or earlier, provided responses predominantly in the moderately disagree category. A possible explanation of the differences is that those leaving the service early had not been exposed to changes in benefits over the years and that the earliest departees had the least exposure.

Little of significance could be gleaned from responses to the statement that

the military has done its best in its relations with the press except to note that the group leans slightly to the disagreement side.

The relatively strong general agreement (32.8% strongly and 22.1% moderately) with the statement that we could have won the Vietnam war if politicians had kept their hands off was tested against the careerist/non-careerist orientations of respondents as well as their conservative/liberal orientations. No important differences were found between the views of careerists vs non-careerists who had served or were serving in the Army. A significant difference was found, however, in the responses of career Air Force members, 46.8% of whom strongly agreed and 24.1% of whom moderately agreed. A second significant finding was the direct correlation between a conservative political self-perception and strong agreement with the statement.

There was a marked strong to moderate agreement among respondents concerning statement 18 that some form of the draft will probably be needed to maintain the strength of the Armed Forces. This response is probably a reading of the realities of the diminishing success of the volunteer system to attract adequate numbers of requisite quality citizens to the active military fold and to the reserve components.

Included in the survey was a statement designed to test the acceptance of the concept of the youth of America being required to perform some term of service for his country, whether it be in the military or in some other organized endeavor designed to do public good. Response to this proposition was strongly for agreement and may reflect the oft described but seldom admitted sense of "calling" to national service attributed to the professional soldier.

And finally, a statement was included for assessing the degree of patriotic feeling felt by members who have performed in the military and secondly, to see what percentage would admit to having outwardly expressed emotional reaction to those feelings. To the statement that patriotic events sometimes brought tears to their eyes, 91.6% responded with some degree of agreement.



TABLE 48  
SELF-ASSESSED POLITICAL LEANING  
1967 and 1977 Surveys  
Class of 1957, USMA

		<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Somewhat Conservative</u>	<u>Somewhat Liberal</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>
1967	%	23.2	45.9	24.6	6.3	100.0
Survey	N	119	235	126	32	512
1977	%	31.4	51.4	16.9	1.0	100.0
Survey	N	132	216	68	4	420

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TABLE 49  
SHIFTS IN POLITICAL LEANING  
1967 and 1977 Surveys  
Class of 1957, USMA

1977 Political Leaning

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Somewhat Conservative</u>	<u>Somewhat Liberal</u>	<u>Liberal</u>
1967 Political Leaning	Conservative	N 97	56	38	3	
		% 100.0	57.7	39.2	3.1	
	Somewhat	N 194	59	113	20	2
	Conservative	% 100.0	30.4	58.2	10.3	1.0
	Somewhat	N 103	9	56	37	1
	Liberal	% 100.0	8.7	54.4	35.9	0.9
	Liberal	N 22	6	6	9	1
		% 100.0	27.3	27.3	40.9	4.5
	Total	N 416	130	213	69	4
		% 100.0	31.3	51.2	16.6	1.0

% based upon row total



TABLE 50

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO DEGREE  
OF AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT WITH SELECTED STATEMENTS

1977 Survey, Class of 1957, USMA

RESPONSES (%)						NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
<u>Strongly agree</u>	<u>Moderately agree</u>	<u>Slightly agree</u>	<u>Slightly disagree</u>	<u>Moderately disagree</u>	<u>Strongly disagree</u>	
1. The stress incurred during Beast Barracks (two month indoctrination period) and plebe (freshman) year prepares the individual to more adequately cope with stressful situations later.						
31.5	37.4	19.7	3.3	5.0	3.1	422
2. The USMA honor system was honorably administered in the spirit of the honor code during the years 1953 to 1957.						
77.7	18.7	1.9	1.2	0	0.5	422
3. USMA cadets dismissed as a result of the 1976 honor violation episode should be readmitted to West Point as recommended by the Borman investigation committee.						
7.1	11.8	14.9	11.1	18.5	36.5	422
4. The West Point honor code and system are too important to all USMA graduates to be left to current cadets to change by merely voting.						
31.8	19.7	13.5	9.7	10.9	14.5	422
5. Someone should keep the USMA Superintendent free of the influence attempts instigated by West Point graduates.						
13.8	16.5	17.4	20.5	17.4	14.3	419
6. The American public generally considers professional military officers as those who are in the service because they probably couldn't make it on the outside.						
3.8	15.2	19.9	18.7	26.1	16.4	422
7. Successful advancement in the military depends a great deal upon knowing some senior officer who will look out for your career.						
14.9	26.5	34.1	5.7	11.1	7.6	422
8. In practical terms, the amount of integrity to be found among the members of the officer corps usually depends upon the local situation and personalities.						
13.0	25.1	18.5	7.8	22.7	12.8	422

RESPONSES (%)						NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
<u>Strongly agree</u>	<u>Moderately agree</u>	<u>Slightly agree</u>	<u>Slightly disagree</u>	<u>Moderately disagree</u>	<u>Strongly disagree</u>	
9. The military officer's wife's performance and dedication to the military unit, or her <b>lack</b> thereof, should be reflected in the rating of her husband's efficiency, performance and potential.						
1.7	7.8	13.0	5.2	12.6	59.7	422
10. Experience has shown that the best people are selected for promotion to the general officer ranks.						
5.7	32.9	24.3	11.4	16.2	9.5	420
11. The most difficult soldiers with whom military officers must deal are Brigadier Generals who are trying to make a name and reputation for themselves.						
6.2	12.7	21.1	21.1	25.4	13.6	418
12. The racial balance within each of the Armed Forces is of little consequence so long as the force is professional and competent.						
21.6	25.4	11.8	10.9	20.6	9.7	422
13. Rectifying historical inequities in our society requires that black officers be promoted ahead of equally qualified white officers.						
0.9	2.6	6.6	4.5	13.3	72.0	422
14. Women who possess the requisite physical attributes should be permitted to hold combat jobs (infantry, attack pilot, etc.) traditionally held by men.						
12.1	19.2	12.6	7.1	13.3	35.6	421
15. The benefits of military service have eroded to the point that they are no longer a determining factor in the decision to pursue a military career.						
15.4	32.7	16.6	12.8	15.6	6.9	422
16. The military has historically done its best, with honesty and candor, in its relations with the press.						
3.8	22.1	16.2	17.9	25.5	14.5	420
17. If politicians had kept their hands off the situation we could have won the war in Vietnam.						
32.8	21.8	12.4	6.5	10.0	16.5	418
18. We are probably going to need some form of the draft reinstituted in order to keep up the strength of the Armed Forces.						
47.2	31.8	13.0	4.5	1.4	2.1	422

RESPONSES (%)						NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
<u>Strongly agree</u>	<u>Moderately agree</u>	<u>Slightly agree</u>	<u>Slightly disagree</u>	<u>Moderately disagree</u>	<u>Strongly disagree</u>	
19. Every able-bodied young American should be required to serve our country either in the military or in some alternate form of national or state public service.						
51.2	21.8	10.0	3.8	5.5	7.8	422
20. As corny as it may sound, patriotic events such as the playing of the <u>Star Spangled Banner</u> sometimes bring tears to my eyes.						
39.0	32.4	19.8	2.4	4.0	2.4	420

#### ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INDICATORS

The opportunity to gather some superfluous information from a group of individuals who have known one another for nearly twenty four years and have experienced varying degrees of close association and information exchange could not be overlooked in the conduct of this research. Therefore, a group of less formal questions was included, the answers to which would hopefully help to describe some of the effects of time on physical appearance, memory and social habits. The results are shown in Tables 51 through 54.

Two of these questions addressed the adequacy of mental recall after twenty four years since entrance into the academy. One inquired into whether class members continued, without aid of reference, to recall two items of information (the number of lights in Cullum Hall and the amount of water in Lusk Reservoir) about the physical plant of the Military Academy, items which each member had been required to commit to memory at the outset of his cadet career and to which he was continually exposed for the following four years. A second asked for the designation of the company of new cadets of which each member had been a part during the two month unforgettable indoctrination period undergone as an introduction to academy life.

A review of answers returned revealed that only one fifth (20.2%) of the 420 responding class members recalled the Cullum/Lusk information which had been on the tips of their tongues continuously for more than a year. A considerably higher number (97.4%) of the same respondents indicated of which early rite of passage company they had been members, although the accuracy of those answers is impossible to determine. The distribution of respondents among those companies is depicted in Table 51. While this response is not significant in of itself, it does further differentiate among respondents on a basis heretofore unaddressed, that of physical height. While some variations did exist in the assignment of cadets to those companies in July, 1953, in the main the tallest one sixth of the entering cadets were assigned to First Company, the shortest in stature to Sixth Company and others, appropriately, to the companies in between. With this knowledge the possible relationships between physical height and GOM, cadet rank, civil/military status and highest rank held were investigated without significant result.

Changes in appearance which have evolved during the twenty-plus years since all members of the class had their graduation yearbook pictures taken can be mutually startling to both the beholder and beheld. To assess the impact, in



superficial and general terms, of the ravages of time and age, respondents were asked to compare their mirror images with pictures of them found in their academy yearbook and to indicate on their answer sheets the recession of hairlines and the expansion of waistlines, both to the nearest inch. Tables 52 and 53 report the results and suggest that if this data is representative of the class as a whole, the collective class hairline has receded 45.5 feet and the corporate class girth has expanded by just over half of one football field.

With a view toward describing another change over time among members of the class they were asked in 1977, as they had been in 1967, to identify the type alcoholic beverage they most preferred. Shifts in preferences may be noted in Table 54 wherein also to be noted is that only 28 of the non-drinkers which numbered 68 in 1967 were still to be found in that category although they had, by 1977, been joined by 21 former alcohol drinkers. An attempt to link the preference for scotch with the level of affluence reported by civil life members of the class met with no success.



TABLE 51  
RECOLLECTIONS OF NEW CADET COMPANY ASSIGNMENTS  
409 of 425 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>First Co. (Tallest)</u>	<u>Second Co.</u>	<u>Third Co.</u>	<u>Fourth Co.</u>	<u>Fifth Co.</u>	<u>Sixth Co. (Least Tall)</u>
N	72	80	59	70	59	66
%	17.6	19.6	14.4	17.1	14.4	16.1

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TABLE 52  
RECESSION OF HAIRLINE  
418 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>Recession in inches</u>							
	<u>No Change</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Three</u>	<u>Four</u>	<u>Clean Sweep (=6)</u>	<u>Replant</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Respondents	173	140	59	15	16	13	2	418
Total Inches Lost	0	140	118	45	64	78		445

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TABLE 53  
EXPANSION OF GIRTH  
422 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

	<u>Expansion of waist size in inches</u>										
	<u>No Change</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Three</u>	<u>Four</u>	<u>Five</u>	<u>Six</u>	<u>Seven</u>	<u>Eight</u>	<u>Nine or More</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Respondents	40	40	90	67	81	36	43	12	7	6	422
Total Inches Expanded	0	40	180	134	324	180	344	84	56	54+	1396+

TABLE 54

PREFERENCES IN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
1967 and 1977 Surveys  
416 Respondents, Class of 1957, USMA

Preferences as of 1967										
	Bourbon	Gin	Rum	Rye	Scotch	Vodka	Whiskey	Beer	Non-Alcoholic	T(N)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Bourbon	41.8	14.7			9.7	16.7	28.6	13.8	14.7	(83)
Gin	9.9	25.3			6.8			4.2	4.4	(40)
Rum	2.2		62.5		1.9		7.1	2.1	2.9	(13)
Rye				66.7	1.9		7.1			(5)
Scotch	15.4	28.0			54.4	16.7	21.4	25.0	8.8	(113)
Vodka	14.3	13.3	12.5		6.8	50.0	7.1	2.1	8.8	(42)
Whiskey	3.3	2.7		33.3	1.0		14.3		1.5	(10)
Beer	7.7	10.7	25.0		8.7		7.1	45.8	17.6	(61)
Non-Alcoholic	5.5	5.3			8.7	16.7	7.1	2.1	41.2	(49)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
(N)	(91)	(75)	(8)	(3)	(103)	(6)	(14)	(48)	(68)	(416)

% based upon column total

Preferences as of 1977

## CONCLUSION

This report has presented an historical and sociological portrait of the Class of 1957, U.S. Military Academy, painted as best able with the raw materials provided in the responses to questionnaires answered ten years ago and in 1977. The accuracy of the data presented is as good as the memories, recollections and attention to detail (right answer in the right block) of the respondents. Also, the validity of data, considering the number of questions which addressed personal and controversial matters, is dependent upon the degree of candor exercised by respondents. Also noted is that the responses which were not received from 92 living class members and 14 next-of-kin, for whatever the reasons for those non-responses, could have altered the complexion of the data presented herein. Therefore, the assumption that an 80.6% response is a valid representation of the class may not be accurate.

A point must be raised concerning the rate of response to the 1977 questionnaire. Janowitz notes in his 1960 work the unique sense of class solidarity among the graduates of the various academies, as opposed to the lack of solidarity found in the graduates of a class from the usual civilian educational institution, and correctly attributes it not to the educational institution experience but to the continued close associations and shared experience of the military service following graduation. Added to this is the extensive effort of the alumni association of the academy and of individual class members to foster this association through information exchange among both those who remain on active military duty and those who do not. With this in mind, and noting the approach of the 20th anniversary of the graduation of this class, a psychological milestone normally given considerable import by members, one would have expected a greater response to the questionnaire of 1977. For lack of definitive information, three speculative explanations for a majority of the non-responses are advanced: a late developing alienation from the military, and therefore the class, by those who have recently departed or are about to depart from military duty; a discomfort with the personal nature of a number of the questions in the survey; a reluctance to go on record with candid answers to difficult questions when there is the ever-present suspicion that those answers could possibly be disclosed to others.

Findings described in this report run from the mundane to the obvious and therefore present, in the main, no unusual departures from what would be expected.

ted. Findings do, however, present data which may be useful for later comparison with other academy classes and with contemporaries of the class as well as laying a foundation for subsequent study of class members as they strive for and attain higher levels of recognition in both the civilian and military communities in later years. They also lay a groundwork for later comparisons of civilian career success, a subject only superficially addressed, among those who left military service early in their careers as compared to those who will leave service at the completion of a full military career to seek a second one in the civilian world.

The vagaries of the military bureaucracy and the promotion systems attendant to it make it difficult to assess implications for the future with regard to the participation of the class in the military services. Of the 498 class members for whom definite data are available, 255 indicated that they would remain on active duty after eligibility for military retirement. However, 168 of those also indicated that their continued service was related directly to whether they will be selected for routine promotion at their next opportunity. Thus, the picture of class participation in service life will probably change significantly in the very near future.

Whatever the outcome of these successful and unsuccessful careers among the members of the Class of 1957, all will provide interesting data to be included in the third study of this cohort to be conducted in 1987 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its graduation.



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